

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 06531 311603Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, GR,US
SUBJ: FOREIGN RELATIONS: THE SECOND "GREEK WORLD" SEMINAR
ON U.S.-GREEK RELATIONS

1. THE SECOND ANNUAL GREEK-AMERICAN SEMINAR SPONSORED BY THE "GREEK WORLD" MAGAZINE WAS HELD IN ATHENS ON JULY 26-27, 1978, ON THE THEME "GREEK-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN A DEMOCRATIC SETTING." THE SEMINAR WAS WELL SUPPORTED BY THE GREEK GOVERNMENT AND RECEIVED FAVORABLE COVERAGE BY THE GREEK MEDIA. AS LAST YEAR, THE PARTICIPANTS WERE PRIMARILY GREEK-AMERICAN SCHOLARS FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND IT WAS ATTENDED BY A NUMBER OF GREEK ACADEMICIANS, POLITICIANS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PRESS.

2. SPEAKERS AT THE OPENING CEREMONY INCLUDED THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, MINISTER TO THE PRESIDENCY OF THE GOVERNMENT STEPHANOPOULOS, THE CHARGE, GEORGE ATHANSON (MAYOR OF HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT), AND DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER ANDRIANOPOULOS, WHO FORMALLY OPENED THE PROCEEDINGS. RECEPTIONS IN HONOR OF THE SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS WERE

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 06531 311603Z

GIVEN BY THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PARLIAMENT, AND THE CHARGE.

3. MOST SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS WERE CRITICAL OF U.S. POLICY TOWARDS GREECE IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, ALTHOUGH IN PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS MANY SCHOLARS APPEARED TO BE LESS ADAMANT ABOUT THEIR PODIUM POSITIONS. A NUMBER

OF THEM SAID THAT THEY WERE DISTURBED BY THE AUDIENCE'S PERCEPTION THAT THEIR PRESENTATIONS WERE PRO-GREEK AND ANTI-AMERICAN, AND THAT THEY HAD TRIED PRIVATELY TO PLACE THEIR POSITIONS IN A PERSPECTIVE SUPPORTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES AS THE ONLY COUNTRY WHICH COULD ACCEPT, WITHSTAND, AND EVEN ENCOURAGE OPEN CRITICISM.

4. IN TWO CASES, SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS WHO HAD MET WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN GREECE VOLUNTEERED THAT ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING, IN THEIR OPINION, HAD TAKEN A QUANTUM LEAP SINCE THEY HAD BEEN HERE LAST. OF COURSE, THE EXQUISITE TIMING OF THE SEMINAR, WHICH COINCIDENTALLY PLACED ITS OPENING ON THE DAY AFTER THE SENATE VOTE ON THE EMBARGO, DID NOT CONTRIBUTE TO A REASONED EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUES OR FEELINGS OF WARMTH TOWARDS THE UNITED STATES.
MILLS

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